

Villages club awards 2010 scholarship

Motor racing group gives \$500 annually in tuition to student

The Villages Daily Sun
Saturday, July 10, 2010
Staff Report

The Villages Motor Racing Fan Club presented its 2010 Book-Tuition Scholarship to Wildwood High School graduate Scott Michael Hensley of Fruitland Park during a recent meeting.

The \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to a high school student from the tri-county area meeting the program's criteria and having a connection to the world of motor racing.

Hensley has been accepted to Jacksonville University, where he intends to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in business management.

Former scholarship recipient Matt Bowers of Mount Dora presented the award certificate. Bowers, a local late model stock car racer, is entering his second year of studies at Lake-Sumter Community College, where he is studying business and finance.

Bowers has been affiliated for some time with the racing club and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2008 in recognition of his accomplishments in motor racing.

Club President Gerry Hafer noted that community involvement is considered one of the main principles of the motor racing organization.

"We support several charitable organizations," Hafer said. "But we also provide critical support to a variety of venues specifically related to motor racing and the development of racers, race teams and racing-related programs."

Through contributions and specific sponsorship arrangements, the club has supported three main charities – Help Them Call Home, Operation Shoebox and Victory Junction Gang Camp – and has provided financial support to more than a dozen racing programs.

In addition, the club has allocated funds to specific causes such as the 2007 tornado recovery effort.

"During our almost four years as an organization," Hafer noted, "we've contributed over \$13,000 to the support of programs our members endorse."